



Proposal for a supplementary agenda item

1. In accordance with Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, the Director-General has the honour to refer to the following proposal for a supplementary agenda item to be added to the provisional agenda of the Board at its 130th session.
2. A proposal was received on 28 November 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, for an additional item for the provisional agenda of the Board to be entitled: “United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20)”.
3. This proposal is submitted to the Board for its consideration (see Annex).

ANNEX

“Health in sustainable development: contributions to Rio + 20”

Background:

Chapter 6 of Agenda 21 adopted by the Earth Summit, in Rio, in 1992, refers to the protection and promotion of human health and defines objectives to expand primary health care, especially in rural areas; the control of communicable diseases; the protection of vulnerable groups; solutions to urban sanitary problems; and health risk reduction related to contamination and environmental threats.

Other issues related to health can also be found in different chapters of Agenda 21, with references to noncommunicable diseases; consequences of climate change to health, etc.

Ten years later, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation also included a chapter dedicated to health and sustainable development.

More recently, in the WHO Conference on Social Determinants of Health (Rio de Janeiro, 19–21 October), the links between health and sustainable development were recognized and highlighted by Member States in the Rio Declaration.

Rio + 20:

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio + 20 (June 2012) will be an opportunity to review progress made regarding sustainable development objectives and commitments, as well as to define new goals for the years to come.

Consultations with Member States between February and May would be useful to further discuss the relations between health and the two main themes of the Conference: (i) the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and (ii) governance for sustainable development.

The aim of the consultations is to articulate an international position on health in sustainable development as a contribution from WHO Member States to the debates and negotiations to be held in June 2012, including a vision and goals for health in sustainable development beyond 2012.

This process could be launched through the adoption of a decision during the next Executive Board session in January 2012. The recommendations and conclusions of this exercise would be shared and further discussed during the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly (May 2012), prior to the Conference.

Against this backdrop, Brazil has requested the inclusion of a new agenda item for the 130th session of the Executive Board. It will be an opportunity for the Secretariat to make a brief presentation of the preliminary document that WHO has submitted to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Bureau in New York, to be followed by comments from Member States and the adoption of the above-mentioned draft decision.

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